

We Claim:

1. A system of switches, said system comprising:

a memory/command bus having a first interface, a second interface and a third interface;

a memory connected to said third interface of said memory/command bus, said memory having a first memory address;

a first switch that monitors said memory/command bus and interprets information written to said first memory address as proxy information, said first switch connected to said first interface of said memory/command bus; and

a second switch that monitors said memory/command bus and interprets information written to said first memory address as proxy information, said second switch connected to said second interface of said memory/command bus.

2. The system as recited in claim 1 wherein said information being written to said first memory address is interpreted as a command.

3. The system as recited in claim 1 wherein said information being written to said first memory address is interpreted as status information.

4. A switch comprising:

a memory/command bus interface, said memory/command bus interface configured to be connected to a memory and a second switch through a memory/command bus, said memory having a designated memory address;

a monitor being connected to said memory command bus interface so that said monitor can monitor said memory command bus and interpret information written to said designated memory location as proxy information.

5. The switch as recited in claim 4 wherein said proxy information is interpreted as a command.

6. The switch as recited in claim 4 wherein said proxy information is interpreted as status information.

7. The switch as recited in claim 4 wherein said monitor is a forwarding manager.

8. The switch as recited in claim 4 wherein said monitor is an address manager.

9. The switch as recited in claim 4 wherein said monitor is a start point manager.

10. A method of sending information between switches using a shared memory/command bus connecting switches to one another and to a shared memory comprising the steps of:

allocating a first address in a shared memory for communicating information between switches;

obtaining ownership of a memory/command bus for a first switch;

writing memory information to said shared memory from said first switch;

writing sending information, to be sent to other switches, to said first address in said shared memory;

monitoring of said memory/command bus by said first switch and said other switches; and

interpreting said sending information written to said first address as proxy information.

11. The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising the step of interpreting said sending information as a command.

12. The method as recited in claim 10 further comprising the step of interpreting said sending information as status information.